

Jefferson Intermediate School

938 Selden

Local

State

State Marker

National ✓ 9/22/97



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Historic overview:

The Jefferson School, completed in 1923, was named after Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and the third president of the United States. The prominent Detroit architectural firm of Malcomson, Higginbotham and Palmer designed the building, the most prolific designers of schools in the state. Other buildings by Malcomson and Higginbotham include the Cass Avenue Methodist Church, Preston School, McMillan School, Beard School, and the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Rosary. William Palmer was brought into the firm in the early 1900s.

The site for the old Jefferson School was purchased by the city in 1869, and the school was constructed in 1873. The site was located on streets then known as Marie and Crawford, which were later changed to Selden and Hamilton Avenues, respectively. The school originally on this site was constructed in 1873, at a cost of \$60,000. In 1915, additional lots were bought for playgrounds. The elementary school building was torn down in 1922, as it was considered old and dilapidated. The construction of Jefferson School began in 1922, and is an example of the Neo-Tudor style.

During the 1950s, the John C. Lodge Freeway was constructed and the school playground was sacrificed. Interior modernization and improvements were also made to the building. The building has been rehabilitated and now serves as a charter school.

